

Woods Hole Science Aquarium High School Intern Program Summer 2006



What

The Woods Hole Science Aquarium is offering internships for students who have completed grades 10, 11 or 12. The interns will help care for animals, work on special projects, attend seminars and go on collecting trips and field trips.

The internships are designed for students with a variety of interests: aquariums, marine animals and marine science, writing about marine animals and marine environments, and teaching the public about stewardship of marine resources.

When

The 2006 program will run four weeks, beginning July 5 and ending July 28. Interns will work five-to-six hours per day, five days per week. Hours of attendance are somewhat flexible and we will make an effort to accommodate students who have summer jobs. A two-week extension (July 31- August 11) is possible for students who want a longer intern experience.

Where

At the aquarium at the end of Water Street in Woods Hole.

By Whom

The intern program is run by the staff of the Woods Hole Science Aquarium, and is a project of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and the Marine Biological Laboratory.



What Is Offered

The internships are an opportunity to work with a professional staff and to get an overview of the types of science done in Woods Hole. The interns will also learn about marine animals, aquarium operations, public education and environmental stewardship.

The aquarium typically has 140 species of marine animals. The current collection includes one seal, three endangered turtles and one threatened turtle. The animals are held in several dozen tanks that provide cold water, temperate water, and warm water habitats. The aquarium staff includes two veterinarians, an aquarist, a curator, and a program manager. Visitors to the aquarium in a typical summer week number in the thousands and come from more than 30 states and a dozen foreign countries.

Interns will work with animals; serve as guides to the aquarium; attend training sessions; go on field trips, collecting trips and visits to other science institutions in Woods Hole; hear presentations from scientists working in a variety of marine fields; participate in resource management exercises; do weekly readings.





Daily Activities

Interns will spend approximately half their time working with the aquarist on routine animal husbandry chores (preparing food, feeding animals, cleaning tanks) and half their time on other activities: field trips, readings, training sessions, educational exercises, career exploration meetings with scientists. The interns will have weekly written evaluations. Interns will have an opportunity to work with professional staff on projects that may include water quality studies, researching and designing improved tank habitats, or developing material for the aquarium website (<http://aquarium.nefsc.noaa.gov/>). Each intern will spend some time daily serving as a guide to the touch tanks.

What Is Not Offered

The internships do not include stipends. Housing and transportation are not provided. We expect most applicants will be local students or students who have family on the Cape, but students from off-Cape are welcome if they can arrange their own housing and transportation. There is a public trolley that runs from Falmouth to Woods Hole.

Selection Criteria

The program is designed for mature, motivated students who want an interesting summer experience. Applicants do not have to be anticipating careers in marine science, but they should be interested in marine animals, the marine environment, aquarium operations, resource management, or writing and/or web-based communications.

We are looking for interns who are:

- * interested in learning
- * interested in aquarium operations or animal husbandry
- * comfortable working with and learning from adults
- * interested in working with and learning from other interns

How To Apply

Complete the application form found on the aquarium website (also available in the aquarium.) Alternately, you may send an e-mail with the information requested on the application form, but make sure you answer all the questions. We also require a transcript and two letters of recommendation from teachers or counselors. Recommendation letters may be e-mailed.

Deadline

Application materials must be received by March 24. Selections will be announced by April 5.

Who Should Apply

The WHSA welcomes applications from students of all backgrounds. Students from groups under-represented in marine sciences are especially encouraged to apply – this includes African American, Cape Verdean, Hispanic, and Native American students. Interns must have finished 10th grade and be at least 16 years old by July 5, 2006.

Contact

Direct questions and applications to: George Liles, WHSA Intern Program, NOAA Fisheries Service, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543. (george.liles@noaa.gov) (508 495-2378).

